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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

storing a last-communication time related to a name of a person in a phonebook database in said mobile telephone equipment;

calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time;

determining whether said amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time exceeds a predetermined time interval ~~has elapsed since said last-communication time~~; and

alerting when it is determined that the predetermined time interval exceeds said amount of time since the last-communication time has elapsed.

Claims 2-3. (Canceled).

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein said last-communication time is initially set to a time when data related to the person is registered into the phonebook database.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein said last-communication time is updated each time communication with the person is terminated.

Claim 6. (Original) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein the

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predetermined time interval is arbitrarily determined depending on a user's instruction.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein the alerting is performed by driving one of a speaker, a vibrator, and a display.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

storing a last-communication time related to a name of each of a plurality of persons in a phonebook database in said mobile telephone equipment;

dividing the plurality of persons into a plurality of groups;

determining a before-alert time interval for each of the groups, wherein the before-alert time interval is a time interval during which communication with the person is not made before alerting;

calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time;

determining whether the before-alert time interval exceeds said amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time; and

alerting when it is determined that the before-alert time interval exceeds said amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 8, wherein the last-communication time is initially set to a time when data related to the person is registered into

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the phonebook database.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 8, wherein the last-communication time is updated each time a communication with the person is terminated.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

storing a last-communication time related to a name of a person in a phonebook database in said mobile telephone equipment;

storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited;

calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time;

determining based on the time whether a predetermined time interval exceeds said amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time;

alerting when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed; and

inhibiting alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed.

Claim 12. (Canceled).

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 11, wherein

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the alerting is performed by driving one of a speaker, a vibrator, and a display.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 13, wherein, inhibiting comprises an audible alert by the speaker and/or the vibrator is inhibited and a silent alert on the display is permitted.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 1, further comprising:

storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and
displaying the alert list in form of a menu on a display so that a desired one is selected from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 8, further comprising:

storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and
displaying the alert list in form of a menu on a display so that a desired one is selected from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 11, further comprising:

storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and

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displaying the alert list in form of a menu on a display so that a desired one is selected from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-communication time related to a name of a person; and

a controller for determining based on the time, whether a predetermined time interval exceeds an amount of time ~~has elapsed~~ since said last-communication time and starting the alert function when it is determined that the predetermined time interval exceeds said amount of time ~~since said last-communication time has elapsed~~.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-communication time related to a name of each of a plurality of persons, wherein the plurality of persons is divided into a plurality of groups; and

a controller for determining a before-alert time interval for each of the groups, wherein the before-alert time interval is a time interval during which communication with the person is not made before alerting, determining whether the before-alert time interval exceeds an amount of time ~~since has elapsed after~~ the last-communication time, and starting the alert function when

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it is determined that the before-alert time interval exceeds said amount of time since ~~has elapsed~~ after the last-communication time.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-communication time related to a name of a person;

an alert-inhibition timetable storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited; and

a controller for determining based on the time whether a predetermined time interval exceeds an amount of time ~~has elapsed~~ since said last-communication time, starting the alert function when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed since said last-communication time, and inhibiting alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval exceeds said amount of time ~~has elapsed~~ since said last-communication time.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

storing time data related to a name of a person to communicate with in a phonebook database in said mobile telephone equipment in response to termination of a call to the person;

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calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since said termination of said call based upon said stored time data;

determining whether said amount of time exceeds based on the time data whether a predetermined time interval ~~has elapsed without communicating with the person;~~ and

alerting when it is determined that the predetermined time interval exceeds said amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person.

Claim 22. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 21, wherein the time is a last-communication time at which communication with the person was made last.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

storing time data related to a name of a person to communicate with in a phonebook database in said mobile telephone equipment;

storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited;

calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since communicating with said person based upon said stored time data;

determining ~~based on the time data~~ whether a predetermined time interval exceeds the amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person;

alerting when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is determined that the predetermined time interval exceeds the amount of time that has elapsed

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without communicating with the person; and

inhibiting alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval exceeds the amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 23, wherein the time data is a last-communication time at which communication with the person was made last.

Claim 25. (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing time data related to a name of a person to communicate with in response to termination of a call to the person; and

a controller for determining based on the time data whether a predetermined time interval exceeds an amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person based upon said stored time data and starting the alert function when it is determined that the predetermined time interval exceeds the amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person.

Claim 26. (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

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a phonebook database in mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-communication talk time related to a name of each of a plurality of persons to communicate with in response to termination of a call to the person, wherein the plurality of persons is divided into a plurality of groups; and

a controller for determining a before-alert time interval for each of the groups, wherein the before-alert time interval is a time interval during which communication with the person is not made before alerting, determining whether the before-alert time interval exceeds an amount of time since ~~has elapsed after~~ the last-communication time based upon said last-communication talk time, and starting the alert function when it is determined that the before-alert time interval exceeds the amount of time since ~~has elapsed after~~ the last-communication time.

Claim 27. (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing time data related to a name of a person to communicate with in response to termination of a call to the person;

an alert-inhibition timetable storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited; and

a controller for determining based on the time data whether a predetermined time interval exceeds an amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person based upon said stored time data, starting the alert function when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is determined that the predetermined time interval exceeds an

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amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person, and inhibiting alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval exceeds an amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person.